MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 JULY 1981

Lebanese Crisis

Cease-Fire Announced--After meeting in Jerusalem with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin on 24 July, U.S. special envoy Philip Habib made a statement, which was broadcast by Jerusalem radio, in which he said that all hostile military actions between Lebanese and Israeli territories would cease at 1130 GMT the same day. Prime Minister Begin then said that the Israeli Government is endorsing the statement. Earlier, IDF radio reported that the Israeli Government had decided to give a "positive response" to Habib's proposals in the course of a special Cabinet meeting. Jerusalem radio reported that Habib arrived in Israel and held an earlier meeting with Begin before the Cabinet session.

Arab Comment on Habib Mission--According to QNA, the Beirut newspaper AS-SAFIR reported on 23 July that Syria has asked Habib not to visit Damascus in light of current circumstances. The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio quoted Fatah Central Committee member Majid Abu Sharar as criticizing Habib for trying to impose a U.S. security plan on the Arab world. Abu Sharar called on the Arab states not to meet with the U.S. envoy.

Military Situation--The Voice of Palestine reported that Palestinian forces foiled an Israeli landing attempt in the Al-Jiyah area, 25 km south of Beirut. The radio said the Israeli force, which disembarked from landing craft and was supported by warships and helicopters, was compelled to withdraw after 2 and 1/2 hours of fierce fighting. While the Voice of Palestine reported that a number of civilians were killed when their vehicle was hit as it passed through the battle area, Jerusalem radio said the Israeli force killed a number of "terrorists," completed its mission and returned safely to base without casualties.

According to the Voice of Palestine, Israeli forces continued to shell Palestinian positions in southern Lebanon throughout 23 July. The targets included Hasbayya, Tyre, Al-Hawsh, An-Nabatiyah, Ar-Rashidiyah camp, Al-'Ayshiyah and Al-Jarmaq. The radio also reported that Israeli aircraft carried out two air strikes in swift succession on the Al-Hasbani bridge. ITIM confirmed that Israel had launched another air raid but said the planes attacked Palestinian artillery in the Hasbayya area. Beirut radio reported that Israeli artillery resumed the shelling of southern Lebanon on 24 July and said that casualties in Lebanon during the previous 24 hours amounted to 9 killed and 25 wounded. According to an earlier Jerusalem radio report, the International Red Cross appealed to the UNIFIL commander to try to achieve a cease-fire in the region southeast of Tyre where heavy casualties among the civilian population have been caused by Christian militia shelling. Jerusalem radio said that Palestinian artillery attacks on Northern Israel were sporadic and caused no casualties on 23 July but reported that a Katyusha rocket attack the next day killed a man and injured 10 other people in Qiryat Shimona. According to the Voice of Palestine, the Palestinian military commander in An-Nabatiyah said the decrease in Palestinian artillery attacks was prompted by the UN Security Council's appeal for a cease-fire and was not the result of any inability to retaliate against the Israeli attacks.

Arab Defense Council Meeting--In a statement issued on 24 July at the close of its meeting in Tunis, the Joint Arab Defense Council stated that Israeli aggression against Lebanon would not have occurred had it not been for the unlimited U.S. aid to Israel. According to the statement, broadcast by Beirut radio, the council decided to adopt the measures dictated by the Joint Arab Defense Treaty to support Lebanon in maintaining its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The council also agreed to assist the PLO in accordance with the resolutions of the Arab summit conference. The statement warned countries that extend military, economic, political and human aid to Israel, particularly the United States, that the Arab states will take comprehensive measures should that aid and support for Israel continue to allow it to carry out aggression against Lebanon and the Arab nation.

Beirut radio reported that Lebanese Defense Minister Joseph Skaf delivered a speech at the meeting in which he asserted that Lebanon continues to demand the drafting of a comprehensive, unified Arab strategy to confront the dangers facing it and all the Arab states. Claiming that Lebanon has become the only arena for the Arab-Israeli conflict, Skaf said Lebanon can no longer continue to shoulder the burden of the Arab-Israeli conflict alone and pay such a heavy toll in human life. He predicted that the Israeli dnager will extend to every Arab capital unless the Arabs close ranks.

According to the radio, PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi also addressed the meeting, urgently calling for an Arab summit conference. Reporting on his address, AFP quoted him as saying it is time for the Arabs to understand that feigned U.S. friendship for certain Arab regimes "is nothing but a snare."

Economic Sanctions Proposed--According to Beirut Radio, the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies has approved a proposal calling for the use of the "oil weapon" against countries that oppose Lebanon and the Arab cause. Amman's AD-DUSTUR reported that in view of Israel's attacks against the Lebanese and Palestinian people, representatives of popular bodies and professional unions in Jordan have issued a statement calling for an oil embargo against the United States, a boycott of U.S. goods and the withdrawal of Arab assets from U.S. banks.

Badran Urges Dialogue--According to Amman television, Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran said he does not understand the U.S. refusal to talk with the PLO in order to stop the fighting in the region and its adoption of the "third party procedure." He observed that the Palestinian forces under the PLO are a basic party to the dispute and should therefore be a basic party to the dialogue. He said the United States must start a dialogue with the PLO in order to regain its credibility in the area.

Iran

Election Sabotage Plot--A guards corps statement broadcast by Tehran radio reported that 60 Mojahedin-e Khalq members were arrested on 22 July for plotting to destroy of steal ballot boxes to be used in the 24 July elections.

Bani-Sadr Appeal--The clandestine Voice of Iranian Kordestan radio reported that on 22 July a transmitter apparently belonging to the Mojahedin-e Khalq broadcast a recorded statement by former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr in which he called on the people to boycott the "phony elections."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

According to an Iranian Armed Forces communique carried by Tehran radio, an Iraqi Army aircraft was shot down west of Bostan on 22 July. An Iraqi Armed Forces General Command Communique transmitted by INA claimed that 206 Iranians were killed in a 22 July clash in the Nowsud region.

Afghanistan

National Fatherland Front member Abdul Quddus was assassinated at his home in Qandahar, AFP reported, citing Kabul radio.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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HIGH-LEVEL AFGHAN OFFICIAL ASSASSINATED 23 JUL

BK240120 Hong Kong AFP in English 0113 GMT 24 Jul 81

[Text] Islamabad, 24 Jul (AFP)--Abdul Quddus, a high official in the Soviet-backed Afghan regime, was shot dead at his home in Qandahar on Thursday, according to a Kabul radio report monitored here.

The dead man, a member of the Fatherland National Front, was employed in countering antiregime propaganda from abroad.

Afghan Moslem rebels fighting the Kabul [word indistinct] announced last month that members of the Fatherland Front would be targets for assassination. They said they had drawn up a murder list with 30 names on it.

KESHTMAND HOLDS TALKS WITH GDR DELEGATION

LD232058 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Text] Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, today received at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers the GDR party delegation headed by Guenter Sieber, member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] and chief of the SED International Relations Department, which recently arrived in Kabul.

At this meeting, which was held in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship, there were discussions about the good relations between the PDPA and the SED and also [word indistinct] between the DRA and the GDR and both sides expressed hope for further development of these relations.

Also at this meeting, appreciation was expressed for the friendly assistance of the GDR and the desire was expressed for the (?further) extension of these internationalist relations.

AFGHAN OFFICIALS RECEIVE LEBANESE PARTY DELEGATION

LD232122 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Text] Dr Anahita Ratebzad, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the president of the DRA Peace, Friendship and Solidarity Organization, this afternoon received a delegation of Lebanese progressive nationalists headed by Ibrahim 'Abdol Qader (Khalilollah) at the party's Central Committee headquarters.

At this meeting, which was held in an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality, lengthy talks were held about counterrevolutionary elements and the struggles of the people of Afghanistan against them, the defense of the gains of the Sawr Revolution, world problems, regional affairs and the struggle of the people of Lebanon against Zionism.

According to another report, the good-will delegation of Lebanese progressive nationalists this afternoon met 'Abdolmajid Sarboland, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of information and culture, at his office. Matters of interest were discussed at this meeting.

GOVERNMENT APPEALS FOR CALM IN CURFEW-BOUND AIJAL

BK231607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Text] The Mizoram government has appealed to the people to help in maintaining peace in the union territory. It advised the students not to be influenced into undesirable activities and requested the parents to guide them properly.

Meanwhile, the overall law and order situation in the curfew-bound Aijal continued to be under control. The curfew was relaxed for 1 hour in the southern part of the twon from 1630 [1100 GMT]. There was no report of any untoward incident during the relaxation period.

The chief secretary said that the situation elsewhere in the union territory is peaceful.

ARMY ALERT IN AIJAL; MIZO LEADER ON PEACE TALKS

BK231259 Hong Kong AFP in English 1131 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Text] New Delhi, 23 Jul (AFP)--Mizo insurgent leader Laldenga today accused the government of Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi of resorting to delaying tactics in settling the 15-year-old insurgency in the tiny northeastern frontier state of Mizoram.

Mr Laldenga, who has been living here virtually under house arrest for the past several years, recently visited his Mizo National Front (MNF) headquarters with the permission of the government to hold talks with his colleagues prior to a final negotiated settlement here.

In a statement here, Mr Laldenga referred to the "slow pace" of talks with the government and said the latter "only" wanted the MNF to commit itself to the acceptance of the India Constitution, acknowledging Mizoram as part of India, and thus "kill" his movement. He said there had been no progress after five rounds of talks with Mrs Gandhi's emissary, G. Parthasarathy. The insurgent leader said he proposed to seek a meeting with Mrs Gandhi herself in the situation.

Meanwhile, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency reported that the army had been alerted to be in readiness in Aijal, Mizoram's capital, following the violent clashes between students and police on Wednesday. However, there was no report any new incidents in the state capital which was placed under an indefinite curfew after yesterday's incidents.

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT IN AUGUST

BK240715 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jul 81

[Text] Foreign Minister of France Claude Cheysson is to pay an official visit to India next month. This will be the first visit of a French Cabinet minister after Mitterrand became the president.

MAHDAVI-KANI ISSUES STATEMENT ON ELECTIONS

LD231216 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jul 81

[23 July statement issued by Interior Minister Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani on presidential election and Islamic Consultative Assembly byelections--read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. On the eve of the country's presidential election and of the Islamic Consultative Assembly byelections in 46 constituencies, in view of the election laws and provisions, the Interior Ministry, responsible for implementing and holding proper elections, requests all organizations, institutions and individuals who have a direct or indirect part to play in elections--be they employees of government or government-affiliated organizations at any level, members of election executives or primary and secondary supervisory councils, members of the registration and polling branches, members of the security forces or candidates for election--to strictly observe the following points:

1. In accordance with the provisions of the law, any campaigning for the presidential election will end 12 hours before the polling and 1 day before polling for the Islamic Consultative Assembly byelections. All campaigning after that is forbidden.

2. Officials and all those who are involved in elections must scrupulously observe impartiality and neutrality, strictly avoid taking a position or engaging in publicity for or against the candidates in any shape or form by using their office to exert influence. Anyone who in any way engages in rigging, misrepresentation or dishonesty with regard to the elections, resorts to bribery or intimidation, or causes disruption and disorder in connection with the elections will be legally prosecuted.

3. The ever-alert and Muslim nation, by its constant presence on the scene will guard the blood-soaked Islamic revolution with full alertness, deprive the counterrevolution and enemies of Islam of any plot or treachery and, with great enthusiasm for participation in the elections, do its religious duty.

4. With precautionary measures adopted by the Interior Ministry and other responsible organizations and institutions, the elections will be held in a perfectly peaceful atmosphere. Thus, the Iranian Muslim nation, in obsolute confidence and enjoying perfect tranquility under the law and without the slightest misgivings, will, by taking part in the elections, strike a resounding blow to the drivel-peddling associates of the East and the West.

[Signed] Interior Minister Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani

CLANDESTINE RADIOS CARRY CALLS FOR BOYCOTT

Bani-Sadr Call

TA231840 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian to Iran 1430 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Text] Dear listeners: Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president deposed on Khomeyni's order, issued a statement on 17 July, the text of which, in Bani-Sadr's voice himself, was heard last night from a radio apparently belonging to the Mojahedin-e Khalq of Iran. The first part of this statement, in which Mr Bani-Sadr explicitly calls on the people to totally boycott the phony elections, is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Oh mother, father, sister, brother: The great [word indistinct] of the revolution is continuing. [Words indistinct] the sons of this great nation are moving the revolution forward amid fire and blood. [passage indistinct]

The number of those executed is over [word indistinct]. Now children 12 years of age and older are being executed. [sentence indistinct] The world is stunned from so much cruelty and savagery. [passage indistinct]

Now is the time for you to say no to those (?bloodsuckers) trying to establish a despotic and monopolistic government even at the cost of destroying the country. Do not participate in the disgraced spectacle of the phony elections. [passage indistinct]

Now they are probably saying that as soon as the game of electing a president ends then everything will calm down. Again they are mistaken and again they are lying. This election means nothing but continuation of the regime of terror, oppression and killings, and will only lead to civil war. Do not take part in it.

[Signed] Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, 17 July 1981

KDP Urges Boycott

JN231544 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Surani Kurdish 1330 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Statement issued by the Political Bureau of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran--date not given]

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP] of Iran, while expressing its denunciation of tomorrow's [as heard] election of a president from among the remnants of the Islamic Majlis members during the current tyrannical phase in Iran in which free people are arrested and executed, announces the following:

1. The people in the towns under the control of the guards should boycott the 24 July elections as an expression of their denunciation and protest. They should stay in their homes and close their shops.

2. The Kurdish groups in Kordestan, the people's army forces and the heroic peshmerga should block all roads and paths leading to the Kurdish villages in Kordestan and prevent the entry of ballot boxes into these villages.

[Signed] The Political Bureau of the KDP of Iran

Voice of Iran Commentary

NC232142 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] Participation in the elections is neither your canonical nor national duty. Dear listeners: Like you, (?all of us) are fed up with the continuous statements issued by the disgraceful officials of the Tehran regime on the bogus elections this Friday. But what can be done? The regime of Khomeyni and his associates is using every possible means to draw the people to the polling stations. They have threatened the civil servants that if they do not vote, they will be fired. The armed forces personnel to which even the hellish Khomeyni in many past interviews had told to stay out of politics are being forced to vote. Fifteen- or 16-year-old children [words indistinct] of the corrupt regime. Naive and jobless villagers are being brought in truckloads to Tehran and to other large cities to show that the number of voters is larger than it is. A number of hireling mullahs of the regime who are neither Muslims nor Iranians have been asked to issue statements and to describe participation in the ridiculous Friday play--which is only being held to quench Khomeyni's lust and the opportunism of this sick and senile man--as the canonical duty of the Muslim Iranian nation.

Anyone with the least bit of information on religious affairs and [words indistinct] of (?religious officials) knows that these (?religious officials) are not in a position to have the right to issue religious orders and to be religious leaders.

Whose religious leaders are those who from Shiraz, Tehran and Tabriz arbitrarily issue statements supporting the anti-Islamic Khomeyni? Is the regime that falsely calls itself religious and Islamic so dizzy as to have forgotten the most elementary affairs in imitation, leadership and competence in religion? No, it has not forgotten, but since the great Satan, the bloodsucking Khomeyni, wants it to be so, therefore, these puppets are following his orders.

Oh noble Iranian nation! Do not participate in the sin and the material concerns of these tyrannical religious officials. Do not be fooled by their statements, which are all anti-religious and against our laws and nationality.

The people of the world have unanimously announced that on Friday Khomeyni's regime will do what it has been ordered to do and will draw the name of one of the disgraceful people--very possibly Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i--out of the boxes and millions of votes will be given to him. Let the main actors--the ruling religionless turbaned men--act in this ridiculous play. It is below the dignity and contrary to the religion of each Iranian to sully his hand by casting a vote in these elections.

Oh Iranian nation! Rise, by any means possible, like the rest of your combatant brothers in Iran and abroad, against the non-Muslim regime of Khomeyni and the associates in his sins. History shall prove our rightfulness and tomorrow's history is being prepared today. Remember that from great suffering and calamity rises patience, greatness and grandeur.

The rotten regime is constantly comparing the deeds of the prophet of Islam, Mohammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, with the deeds of the tyrannical Khomeyni. No healthy mind and no logical person throughout the history of Islam has allowed himself to so presumptuously call someone the successor of the great prophet of Islam. It is a great sin to grant someone--even if he is extremely wise and virtuous--a title tantamount to that of the prophet's, and Khomeyni is neither wise nor virtuous. The insolence of these religionless and anti-Islamic leaders has reached the point that the regime's disgraceful mouthpiece has flagrantly granted Khomeyni the title of the successor of the great prophet and imamate. Each one of these impertinences is sufficient for the blood of not only Khomeyni but of anyone who commits such an impertinence against the lofty position of the prophet and the imams to be shed with immunity.

Oh zealous Iranian nation! Do not allow the Khomeyni clique and his reckless associates to play with religion, your nationalism and your destiny more than this. Oh noble Iranian nation, rise in any way possible against this seemingly Islamic but in fact religionless and incapable (?despot). God protects and supports the pious.

60 ARRESTED IN PLOT TO DISRUPT ELECTIONS

LD232244 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Statement issued by the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Oh heroic, struggling Islamic nation of Iran: While expressing gratitude for your unstinting cooperation with our committee brothers and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in identifying internal plots and in capturing their instigators, we would like to inform the public about some of the successful operations on 22 July:

1. Information obtained on recent days showed that the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization was planning to hatch extensive plots in order to prevent the implementation of the elections on 24 July. With the aid of God and with help from you, the people, your brothers in the corps committee during the past few days have identified the plotters and on 22 July this year, in the course of extensive and successful operations, arrested more than 60 of those involved in the said plot who were the cadres and active members of the said organization.

2. The documents captured from those arrested indicate the extensive plans drawn by the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization for either destroying or snatching ballot boxes throughout the country. Despite their complete readiness for countering such plots, the law endorcement officers hereby inform the Islamic nation, which is forever present in the arena, in Tehran, in other cities and in the villages, that everyone in this nation in his or her own district, from dawn till dusk, should strive together with the officers to safeguard the ballot boxes and to prevent any disruption in the work of the rolling constituencies.

We have every hope that the vigilance and presence of our brothers and sisters in the arena this time, too, as on previous occasions, will also smash the U.S. plot aimed at disrupting the elections!

[Signed] The Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

TEHRAN REPORTS START OF PRESIDENTIAL POLLING

GF240751 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 24 Jul 81

[Excerpts] Since the early hours of this morning, millions of our committed, revolutionary and Muslim people throughout the Islamic Republic of Iran, and even the defenders of Islam on the battlefronts against the Saddamist aggressors, have been to the polls to participate in the presidential election. This time they will elect a missionary, a committed president who believes in the principles and goals of the Islamic Republic and also in true Islam, rule of theocracy and the revolution's policy of "Neither East nor West." A number of Majlis deputies will also be elected.

Khomeyni Votes

LD240830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0720 GMT 24 Jul 81

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, at 1000 this morning the beating heart of the Muslim Iranian nation, Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, together with millions of the believing and devoted persons cast his vote for the president and the deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly in his place of residence in Hoseyniyeh Jamaran.

BANDAR-E 'ABBAS MAJLIS BYELECTIONS CANCELED

LD232156 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the elections headquarters at the Interior Ministry has announced that voting in the presidential election will be held in Bandar-e 'Abbas tomorrow, as in other parts of the country. The headquarters added: On the basis of the view expressed by the Council of Guardians today, byelections for the Majlis will not be held in the Bandar-e 'Abbas constituency. Consequently, our committed brothers and sisters are expected to cast their votes in the presidential election in a calm and peaceful atmosphere, thus fulfilling their religious duty.

FURTHER DETAILS ON SHOOTING OF MAJLIS CANDIDATE

LD231234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Excerpts] This morning the counterrevolutionary monafeqin [hypocrites], went to the home of Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Hasan Beheshti, a Majlis candidate from Esfahan. When he opened the door, they martyred him and his nephew, a child. Our correspondent sent us a report, which you will now hear:

On the eve of the great and fateful referendum of the united and heroic nation of Iran, and while the united flowing tide of the Godseekers is bent on leaving another eternal and unforgettable mark of their extensive and all-round (?unity) in determining their destiny, on another day of God [yum-ollah] on Friday, 24 July, imperialism and America, with the help of all its internal and external mercenaries and agents, those [words indistinct], tried its best and martyred Hjjjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Hasan Beheshti-Nezhad--a candidate for representing the people of Esfahan in the Majlis and successor to the Friday imam of Esfahan--and his 4-year-old nephew.

According to the Central News Unit in Esfahan, at about 0730 this morning, mercenaries went to the home of Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Hasan Beheshti-Nezhad with the excuse that they had a letter for him. He came out and was hit by the American bullets of these traitorous mercenaries and was martyred instantly. As a result of the shooting, his brother's 4-year-old son, who went to the door with him, was shot in the head. He was taken to Ayatollah Kashami Hospital in Esfahan but, unfortunately, in spite of efforts by two hospital doctors, he died on the operating table from the severe impact of the bullet.

The Esfahan News Unit correspondent adds: Immediately after committing their dastardly act and killing Hojjat ol-Eslam Beheshti, the assailants fled the scene; unfortunately, they have not yet been identified.

Following the martyrdom of this true offspring of Islam, the Governorate of Esfahan announced in a statement that the Majlis byelections between the four other candidates will be held tomorrow.

According to the latest reports received, the pure bodies of the two martyrs are being carried towards Imam Square by hundreds of thousands of the martyr-nurturing people of Esfahan, so that from that square, after a ceremony in their honor, they can be taken to Takiyeh-ye Shohada cemetery and buried.

JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 578 REPORTS ON FIGHTING

LD232006 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Communique 578 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the personnel of the armed forces and all the self-sacrificing troops on the battlefields, who on these holy and precious days are traversing the path of honor and martyrdom and who like Imam 'Ali himself are reaping glory for the ideological school of the altar and martyrdom, humbly sends its condolences to the presence of the great leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, and our dear compatriots on the occasion of 21st day of the holy month of Ramadan, which coincides with the anniversary of the martyrdom of mankind's knight, the commander of the faithful and the lord of the pious, 'Ali--may peace be upon him--and beseech the one God to grant victory and glory to the forces of Islam and the self-sacrificing combatants of the path of right and justice.

The situation on the battlefronts and the operations carried out by the combatants of the armed forces during the past 24 hours are as follows:

Yesterday on most of the western and southern fronts, exchanges of artillery, mortar and heavy-weapon fire continued sporadically, in most cases coupled with a firepower superiority of our selfless combatants. In response to enemy fire in the Shur-e Shirin region, the gendarmerie subjected Iraqi positions to their heavy-weapon fire and inflicted numerous casualties and losses on the enemy. They also fiercely retaliated against enemy fire on the Nowsud front.

At 1445 yesterday an aggressive Iraqi Army aircraft was shot down by one of our aircraft west of Bostan.

Yesterday sporadic exchange of fire continued on the fronts west of Dezful, Ahvaz and Susangerd and on the Abadan-Mahshahr fronts. On the Khuninshahr Front, our naval heroes shelled Iraqi positions in the occupied sector of Khuninshahr, killing 10 Iraqis and destroying 3 mortar launchers, 3 trucks and 4 trenches.

During the past 24 hours, a section of the residential and oil installation areas of the city of Abadan came under Iraqi artillery and heavy-weapon fire, resulting in casualties and losses.

This morning the city of Dezful was also shelled by the enemy and several of our dear compatriots in Dezful were either martyred or wounded; several houses were destroyed.

During the past 24 hours, a number of aggressive Iraqi aircraft, which intended to violate the airspace of several border towns in the western and southern parts of the country, were forced to flee, thanks to our antiaircraft fire.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

GUARDS CORPS REPORTS ON RECENT BATTLE SUCCESSES

LD231312 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Statement issued by the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps--date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With our greetings to the combatants of the corps of justice and to the honorable nation, which with its constant presence on all the battlefields and by sacrificing whatever it possesses has further strengthened its unshakable allegiance with its imam and has supported the combatants on the battlefields of good against evil who are continuously waging battle against imperialist mercenaries and world oppression, we hereby give you a report on recent operations undertaken by the combatants of Islam, as follows:

On the western fronts, during coordinated operations yesterday the intrepid combatants of Islam attacked Iraqi positions overlooking the Shonam heights in Iraqi territory where they destroyed an Iraqi Army battalion, killing 100 Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries and capturing 38. During these operations, the commander of the Iraqi battalion was also captured by our heroes.

At 0930 yesterday morning the enemy forces which tried to occupy the Qamtareh heights on the border strip in the Piranshahr region faced devastating fire and, after suffering heavy casualties and losses, desperately fled from scene. During these operations, several posts of the Saddam mercenaries were smashed, thanks to our fire, and, praise to be to God, none of our heroes were wounded during these operations.

On the southern fronts, in the Darkhovin region, thanks to coordinated fire by the combatants of the path of justice, two Iraqi vehicles together and many ammunition dumps were destroyed and a number of the forces of blasphemy were either killed or wounded.

On the Abadan front, thanks to our mortar and artillery fire, four Iraqi ammunition dumps were toally destroyed.

In the occupied sector of Khuninshahr one RPG-7 emplacement and its crew were destroyed.

On the Kut Sheykh and Fayyaziyeh Fronts, a group of Ba'thist mercenaries were either killed or wounded.

During the past 48 hours on the fronts near Station No 7 and the Abadan-Mahshahr axis, five of the self-sacrificing combatants of the guards corps were martyred. May their souls be exultant and their battle everlasting!

[Signed] The Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

BATTLE SUCCESSES IN SANANDAJ AREA REPORTED

LD221140 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Summary] "The martyrdom-seeking, self-sacrificing forces of Islam, comprising the combatants of the army, guards corps, gendarmerie, mobilization and Muslim Kurdish peshmerga stationed on the Marivan front, with the support of the self-sacrificing personnel of the army air corps, in a coordinated, all-round operation attacked the deceived and fleeing forces of Saddam yesterday morning and after destroying a complete battalion of the Iraqi forces comprising at least 500 personnel, and a special company of Saddam's forces comprising 100-150 personnel, captured the strategic heights of Shonam situated on the Iran-Iraq border. The commander of the Iraqi battalion and 65 of the deceived Ba'thists were captured.

During these operations, the villages of (Kamineh), (Bidarvaz) and (Hanigarmaneh), which had been in the hands of counterrevolutionary American minigroups and enjoyed Iraqi artillery support, were cleansed of the pagans.

According to reports received from the operational headquarters of the Kordestan's 28th Division by 2100 last night, Iranian guerrilla groups had penetrated the (Diyarah) village in Iraq, captured the heights overlooking the villages of (Diyarah) and Tawilah and the only main road in the sector.

Also, the control of the Sayyid Sadiq-Panjwin road in Iraq fell into the hands of Iranian guerrilla groups at 0500 yesterday, 21 July. Thanks to accurate observation by the forces an Iraqi column, which had been dispatched to assist in the clash, was destroyed by Iranian artillery, and one 130-mm gun and its ammunition were completely destroyed.

The Sayyid Sadiq-Panjwin road is the only communication road between the two towns and is of a high strategic value.

Also, Iranian artillery fire on the Sayyid Sadiq-Panjwin road crushed the Sayyid Sadiq garrison in Iraq, as a result of which four builders, four vehicles, one gas station and the garrison's powerplant and water reservoir were completely destroyed; the Iraqi personnel stationed in the garrison suffered heavy casualties.

According to the latest reports, clashes are still continuing on the Marivan front. During the past 24 hours, a total of 6 of the Iranian forces were martyred and 10 were injured.

Also, according to latest reports received from military sources in Sanandaj, the villages of (Diyarah) and Tawilah are on the verge of falling into the hands of the Iranian forces stationed nearby. The Sayyid Sadiq-Panjwin road is still under the control of Iranian guerrilla forces.

TEHRAN REPORTS DAMAGE INFLICTED ON IRAQI FORCES

LD231112 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Summary] PARS reports that Iranian forces brought an enemy column moving on one of the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab fronts under artillery fire, inflicting losses and casualties.

Quoting the commander of 81st Armored Division in Kermanshah, the report says that yesterday Iranian artillery fire on enemy positions on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Meymak, Sumar and Zeleh Zard fronts and beyond the Chaghalvand and (Bansiran) heights destroyed 10 infantry and tank bunders, 7 slit trenches and foxholes, 1 observation post, 1 mortar, 1 machinegun and 1 enemy vehicle. A number of the Iraqi forces were killed or wounded.

Yesterday and last night, enemy planes flew over Iranian positions in the west and over Kermanshah three times, but were forced to flee before causing any damage, thanks to Iranian antiaircraft fire.

Quoting the commander of the 84th brigade in Khorramabad, the report says that during the past 24 hours, exchange of artillery fire continued sporadically on the 'Eyn Khosh and (Bacheh 'Abbas) fronts, during which one enemy tank and one vehicle were destroyed and a number of Iraqis were killed.

TEHRAN REPORTS ON FIGHTING ON WESTERN FRONTS

LD231755 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Text] According to PARS, quoting informed responsible officials, during the battles on the western fronts during the past 24 hours, 4 tanks, 2 mortars, 1 cannon, 1 vehicle loaded with ammunition, 1 ammunition depot, 1 bulldozer and 15 squad trenches of the enemy were destroyed on the Dasht-e Zahab, Bazi Deraz, Kur-e Mush and Sayyid Sadiq fronts. One tank and five slit trenches of the Saddamists were destroyed on the Sar-e Ney Konjan Cham and Meymak fronts. One bulldozer, five foxholes and one squad trench of the enemy were also destroyed on the Nowsud and Sumar fronts. During this period 27 Saddamists were killed and 25 other mercenaries were wounded.

These enemy losses were reported from yesterday lunchtime till the time of communication of this report, 1730 today.

NVOI CRITICIZES AUTHORITIES' REMARKS ON PARTIES

TA230559 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Do Not Save U.S. Imperialism From Blows"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: For a long time it has been common knowledge among our homeland's people that whenever and wherever world-devouring America becomes the target of a wave of hatred for our nation, suddenly certain hands in nooks and crannies, under the pretext of a series of hypothetical and transitory problems, attempt to divert public opinion from the danger of U.S. imperialism and aim it at the imaginary and notorious danger fabricated by the shah's regime and its masters, the Soviet danger or the danger of communism. The hostile and misleading slogans which these days are being written on the walls of the embassy of our neighboring and friendly country [presumably the Soviet Union] are a manifestation of a part of the activity of these hands.

The late Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Montazeri, while discussing this same topic at one of the sessions of the Islamic Consultative Assembly rightly said: There are some groups that do not have a place in society and among the people, and in view of their being imbued more than necessary with an anticommunist sensitivity, they are thrown into the lap of America. He said: Certain groups, like the Liberation Movement, the National Front and similar organizations, are not all spies of the United States. [Words indistinct] their view is that we cannot stand on our own feet and we must be dependent on a great government. They conclude that Britain is weak, Russia is atheist and communist; therefore, it is the United States. I have heard these remarks from Mr Bazargan, Mr Sanjabi, Mr Baqa'i and their like, and also from Mr Shari'atmadari.

In this same speech at the Islamic Consultative Assembly the late Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Montazeri then said: They consistently call attention to the Iranian Tudeh Party and communism in the country. You should pay heed to the fact that they want to prepare the ground for conditions similar to those prior to the coup of 19 August. At that time also they used to call attention to communism and the Tudeh Party in order to deceive the people, saying that America would come and cooperate with us to block communism. Then, by alluding to the activity of the liberals, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Montazeri warned the deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the Iranian people: These individuals, too, had the same mentality and were working in its [word indistinct], and their newspapers are still attempting to call attention to communism and the Tudeh Party to make us forget America. However, America should know, and its spies should know that America will not be forgotten, and that we recognize America as the great Satan.

These were the exact remarks of the late Mohammad Montazeri at the 12 May session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. Alas, he is not among us now to see how not only the steamrolling liberals and their mouthpieces but also some of the authorities and government figures are ignoring his statements and are appraising the friends of the Iranian revolution in the international arena and the revolutionary parties and organizations in the same manner of the liberal MIZAN. If the things written in ETTELA'AT about revolutionary parties and organizations had not been from the tongue of a personality like the country's prosecutor general, one could have overlooked them and would have been indifferent toward them as toward all imaginations emanating from the arsenal of imperialism and the liberals. However, when a person who is the source of law and the defender of people's rights talks in such a manner, on the basis of fanaticism, mental prejudice and hostility, about revolutionary parties and organizations loyal to the imam's line, this is something toward which one cannot be indifferent.

The talk is not over a certain revolutionary and progressive party or organization; rather, it is over an important principle in our revolutionary society and in the system of the Islamic Republic, a system that has been established over the (?ruins) of the despised, freedom-killing and bloody regime of the deceased Mohammad Reza. This system was born as a result of the revolutionary struggles and battles of all the people and all revolutionary organizations, whether religious or nonreligious, under Iman Khomeyni's leadership. This revolution has prepared the ground for a transformation in all aspects of domestic and foreign policy and for a constructive ideological combat in society in which ideas can be presented in a healthy manner.

Constructive ideological combat and the clash of ideas, according to the Constitution and the guidelines of the imam of the nation, should be on the basis of reasoning, theoretical logic, free confrontation of ideas, appraisals and judgments and exchange of reasoning and proof, not on the basis of hurling abuse, insult and slander. Those who in society claim to follow Islamic ethics and values should at least be sincere in observing the guidelines of the great prophet and the holy Koran.

True Islam has put proofs and logical reasoning as the basis for ideological combat and the clash of views, not slander, abuse and derision, and resort to those very words and statements that one day the deceased shah and his writers like Amirani, Baqa'i and Shahandeh used in connection with the true revolutionary forces for the purpose of misleading and in order to save their American masters.

When the judgment of the authorities and the Council of Guardians concerning certain parties and organizations that gave the greatest sacrifices because of their consistent struggle against the tyranny of Mohammad Reza and his American masters--and throughout the whole period of the revolution defended and continue to defend the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line without deviating from their ideological principles and revolutionary insight--is such, then what can one expect from the supporters of MIZAN who are the followers of Brzezinski and Kissinger? And in such a case who will protect that government of law whose safeguarding the imam has stressed so much from being assaulted and violated?

Our homeland's sensitive situation and the interests of the revolution and the system of our Islamic Republic dictate that we strive for the unity of all the true revolutionary forces loyal to the imam's and the revolution's line irrespective of their philosophical and ideological position, and for consolidating the steadfastness front. The support of the genuine revolutionary forces for the gains of the revolution and the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line is not for the sake of attracting this or that individual's admiration or hatred, rather it is a principled course conforming with the interests and existence of the system of our Islamic Republic.

The true revolutionary forces, despite all the poison spreading, slander and hurling of insults by this or that individual, will not deviate from their principled course.

KDP DENOUNCES, WARNS AGAINST KURDISH 'TRAITORS'

JN231540 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Surani Kurdish 1330 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] The Iranian Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP] organization in Suma-the Qahraman forces command in northern Kordestan has issued the following statement, which we broadcast in the northern Kurdish dialect:

At a time when popular consciousness is rallying around the Kurdish people's democratic movement under the leadership of the KDP; at this new critical stage [words indistinct] struggling imperialism and reaction; at a time when the so-called Islamic Republic is mobilizing all its potentials to attack Kordestan, realize its dreams and impose martial law in order to exterminate the innocent oppressed by shelling and burning the villages of Kordestan with rockets; at a time when the authorities of the Islamic Republic [words indistinct] the history of mankind; and at a time when the KDP in Iran, supported by the heroic Kurdish people, is struggling against the agent guards and the antipeople army, suspect elements associated with Bakhtiar, the agent of imperialism, want to hold on to the party's weapons, which the Kurdish people gained with the blood of the martyrs.

We will never allow these suspect elements, which are linked to [words indistinct], to take the party's weapons so that Bakhtiar, the counterrevolutionary, and the regime can profit from them. Therefore, those who were party members and are now with Sinar should bear in mind the following points:

1. To all the residents of the region, particularly Salmas, (Shapiran) and (Shahriq): Do not succumb or bow down to Sinar. We want you to know that the seals of the Salmas organization are no longer valid and are not recognized by the party. We call on the oppressed [words indistinct]. The seal of the Salmas organization-the Qahraman forces is no longer valid.

2. Sinar has been expelled from the party. All those who are with him, whether through the party organization or thorugh the Qahraman forces organization, should report to the Suma organization-the Qahraman forces within 15 days. All shirkers or absentees will be disarmed and arrested.

3. We call on the militant residents of these villages to be vigilant, to stand fast and not to bow down to Sinar, the agent of imperialism who is hostile to the peshmerga of the KDP in Iran.

Death and disgrace to the traitors. Victory to the democratic movement of the Kurdish people.

[Signed] The Iranian KDP in Suma-the Qahraman forces, 13 July 1981